

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6174

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG LE SY XF

SUBJ: CAIRO PRESS ON LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: NO CHANGE IN CAIRO PRESS TREATMENT OF LEBANESE SITUATION AUGUST 18, ALTHOUGH THERE LITTLE ANTI-SYRIAN COMMENTARY. SADAT MET WITH QADDUMI IN COLOMBO. ONE REPORT CLAIMS ARAFAT SOON TO VISIT USSR. TITO REMARKS ON LEBANON TOE EGYPTIAN LINE AND PROMINENTLY TREATED HERE. PAPERS REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING IN MOUNTAINS WEST OF BEIRUT, HIGHLIGHTING SYRIAN ROLE AND HAARETZ REPORT WHICH ALLEGEDLY ADMITS SYRIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT ON BLOCKAGE. REPORT OF SOVIET WEAPONS FOR RIGHTISTS ALSO ALLEGES US ARMS DELIVERIES THROUGH ISRAEL. KUWAIT MAKES

OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR ARAB SUMMIT (SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

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2. PALESTINIANS. COVERAGE OF SADAT ACTIVITIES AT COLOMBO

MENTIONS HIS MEETING WITH PLO'S FARUQ QADDUMI. ARAFAT ALSO REPORTED TO BE IN COLOMBO BUT THERE NO INDICATION HE SAW SADAT. ACCORDING TO REPORT FROM BELGRADE, ARAFAT'S "PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE" ABU SHARARA SAID ARAFAT WILL VISIT YUGOSLAVIA AND USSR SHORTLY TO ASK SOVIETS TO PRESSURE SYRIANS TO "END CONSPIRACY" AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE NATIONALIST. HE REPORTEDLY ACCUSED SYRIA OF ASSISTING "ZIONIST PLOT AGAINST ARABS" AND DESCRIBED EGYPT AS "MAIN FORCE" IN ARAB STUGGLE.

3. REPORT OF REMARKS BY SAIQA COMMANDER ZUHAYR MUHSIN IN ABU DHABI CO-OPTED BY PRESS UNDER HEADLINE "MUHSIN ADMIS SYRIA EXPLODING FROM WITHIN". MUHSIN APPARENTLY ACKNOWLEDGED RECENT DAMASCUS BOMBINGS TO PRESS BUT THRUST OF HIS REMARKS WAS THAT MORE BLOODSHED WILL FOLLOW IN LEBANON UNLESS PLO AND LEFTISTS RETURN TO SOLIDARITY WITH LYRIA. STORY REPORTS HE IS CARRYING SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT IN NAME OF KAMAL SULAYMAN IBRAHIM.

4. TITO: PAPERS PLAYED UP TITO COMMENTS, WHICH ECHO EGYPTIAN PUBLIC POSITION, THAT "TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON MUST BE ENSURED" AND THAT ANY MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AT EXPENSE OF PALESTINIANS MUST BE PREVENTED.

5. MILITARY: COVERAGE OF MILITARY SITUATION FEATURES "INTENSIFIED" FIGHTING IN MOUNTAINS WEST OF BEIRUT. SYRIANS SAID TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH RIGHTISTS IN SEVERING SUPPLY LINES AND BESIEGING PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS. PAPERS ALSO COVER HAARETZ REPORT WHICH ALLEGEDLY CONFIRMS SYRIAN-ISRAELI COOPERATION IN BLOCKADE OF SOUTHERN LEBANESE COAST.

6. SOVIET AND US ARMS. ITEM IN WEEKLY AKHER SAA CLAIMS SOVIETS "POURING" ARMS INTO LEBANON FOR RIGHTISTS THROUGH JUNIYYAH, INCLUDING 155MM ARTILLERY PIECES, AIR DEFENSE BATTERIES, SAM'S AND MORTARS. REPORT COMMENTS IT STRANGE THAT SOVIETS PROVIDING RIGHTISTS WITH WEAPONS TO BE USED "TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN ARMS RECEIVED THROUGH ISRAEL" AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS.

7. SUMMIT. KUWAIT HAS OFFICIALLY PRESENTED REQUEST FOR "URGENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARAB SUMMIT" ON LEBANON (SEPTTEL).
EILTS

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